

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01

/132 W

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P R 280913Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1282

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

USUNMISSION 1283

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7979

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PDEV KS KN

SUBJECT: SOUTH-NORTH CONTACTS

REF: SEOUL 7871

1. RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH AND NORTH
MET ONE HOUR THIRTY MINUTES AT PANMUNJOM
NOV 28. EACH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY ONE DELEGATE
AND ONE ASSISTANT.

2. AFTER THE MEETING, KOREAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
(KNRC) ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT NORTH HAD
"VIRTUALLY REFUSED" TO HOLD NEXT ROUND OF TALKS
IN SEOUL, CITING "ATMOSPHERE OF OPPRESSION" AS
THE REASON, AND THAT NORTH HAD DEMANDED REMOVAL
OF "NON-RED CROSS PERSONNEL" FROM DELEGATIONS.
ANNOUNCEMENT SAID SOUTH'S DELEGATE KIM TAL-SUL
(CHIEF OF RED CROSS TALKS SECRETARIAT) HAD
REPLIED BY URGING NORTH TO "GIVE UP ITS ATTEMPT
TO MISUSE RED CROSS TALKS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES".

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3. KNRC STATEMENT CONCLUDED "WE CAN ONLY VIEW THE NORTH SIDE'S IMPOSITION OF PRECONDITIONS AS POLITICAL PROPAGANDA IMPROPERLY INTERFERING IN OUR DOMESTIC POLITICS AND A SHAMELESS BETRAYAL OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR WHOLE NATION HOPING FOR EARLY RECONVENING OF THE RED CROSS TALKS, AND CAN ONLY TAKE THIS TO MEAN THEY DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE THESE TALKS".

4. PYONGYANG RADIO MONITORED HERE BROADCAST THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF A NORTH KOREAN "PROPOSAL FOR RESUMING THE RED CROSS TALKS":

A. SOUTH MUST ELIMINATE CIA AGENTS FORM ITS DELEGATION.

B. SOUTH MUST STOP PERSECUTING PATRIOTS AND STUDENTS, AND RELEASE DETAINED STUDENTS TO CREATE A FAVORABLE ENVIORNMENT FOR THE RED CROSS TALKS.

C. SINCE CONTITIONS IN SEOUL DO NOT PERMIT HOLDING THE EIGHT RED CROSS TALKS IN SEOUL, THE NORTH PROPOSED TO HOLD THEM IN PYONGYANG.

5. COMMENT: NORTH'S RESPONSE IS A VIRTUAL REJECTION OF ANY EARLY RED CROSS CONFERENCE IN SEOUL. OFFER TO HOLD TALKS IN PYONGYANG IS OBVIOUSLY DEVICE TO AVOID PUBLIC POSITION OF COMPLETELY OBSTRUCTING RESUMPTION OF TALKS.

6. GIVEN INTERNAL ROK SITUATION, NORTH'S REPLY APPEARS TO BE AN EFFORT TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS. AT MINIMUM, NORTH MAY NOT WISH TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF "BUSINESS AS USUAL" WITH PARK GOVERNMENT AT A TIME IT (AND ROK-CIA) ARE UNDER FIRE DOMESTICALLY. COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DEC 5 WILL GIVE A BETTER PICTURE OF NORTH'S INTENTIONS.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

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